

I strongly support Bill 70, which would prohibit smoking and vaping in a motor vehicle when a minor is present on O'ahu.

In addition to my previously submitted testimony below I wanted to add that after the last time I testified several people indicated they had heard me on the radio. Some asked if smoking and vaping in the car was really a problem as they didn't believe people would actually do that with a minor on the car. Unfortunately, I was able to share that just a few days after testifying while waiting for a parking place at the park I noticed the car in front of me fill with smoke, with all of the windows closed. At first it did not appear that anyone but the driver was present but then a small child got out of the car... Unfortunately we can't assume everyone knows the dangers of vaping and smoking in a car when a minor is present.

As someone that volunteers with our youth on a regular basis smelling the third hand smoke coming off of kids clothes knowing that they have no say in the exposure levels they are exposed to is troubling. If an adult wants to smoke in their vehicle that's one thing but subjecting an infant or even a minor to this should not be accepted. The potential health risks to our youth should override the adults perceived right to smoke.

Secondhand smoke in a car can be up to ten times more toxic than what the EPA considers unhealthy air quality, even when a window is down. Inhaling secondhand smoke is especially harmful because children's lungs are still developing.

Passing smoke-free cars into law will help decrease our children's exposure to secondhand smoke and educate parents and other adults about the dangers of smoking in a car when a minor is present.

I respectfully ask that you pass Bill 70 to help make Honolulu the third county in Hawai'i (joining the Big Island and Kaua'i) to eliminate smoking in cars when a minor is present.

Scott

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